

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for creating and managing, by a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

selecting, by a student, graduation criteria established by a first course catalog corresponding to a first educational institution;

organizing the graduation criteria into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements to satisfy the graduation criteria;

mining, over a network, first catalog information contained in the first course catalog; selecting course information from the first catalog information to populate the dependency graph with courses satisfying the graduation criteria in accordance with the first course catalog

offering, by a first educational institution, a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the degree;

identifying a second educational institution offering a second plurality of courses and lacking a direct and express agreement obligating the first educational institution to recognize credit for the second plurality of courses;

storing in a computer system a database comprising records reflecting equivalencies between the first and second plurality of courses;

presenting, by the computer system over a computer network, the plurality of degrees to a student;

selecting, by the student over the computer network, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

selecting, by the computer system, first courses from the first plurality of courses and second courses from the second plurality of courses;

organizing, by the computer system, the first degree into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements corresponding to the first degree;

populating, by the computer system, the dependency graph with the first courses and the second courses, the first courses and second courses collectively satisfying the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network, the dependency graph to the student.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising mining, over the network, by the computer system, first catalog information in the first course catalog to identify the first plurality of courses, and identifying the second plurality of courses by mining second catalog information contained in a second course catalog corresponding to [[a]] the second educational institution;

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim [[3]] 2, further comprising coding analogous information in the first and second catalog information with standardized codes to enable comparison of the analogous information.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein coding further comprises coding the analogous information in the first and second catalog information with XML tags, and providing the analogous information in the form of XML pages available on the network.

6. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein coding further comprises embedding XML tags into the source code of HTML pages containing the first and second catalog information.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein coding further comprises creating, by a third ~~part~~ party independent of the ~~plurality of~~ first and second educational institutions, XML pages identifying information in the first and second catalog information with XML tags.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein mining further comprising comprises mining, over the network, information in the first and second catalog information by searching the standardized codes.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising determining equivalency of courses offered by the first institution and the second institution determining, by the computer system, the equivalencies between the first and second plurality of courses.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting, by the student, preferences with respect to the first and second courses used to populate the dependency graph.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein preferences are selected from the group consisting of preferred times, preferred days, cost, credit hour load, desired time to graduate, and preferred location to take courses.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising gathering, by the computer system, scheduling information with respect to the first and second courses used to populate the dependency graph.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising creating, for the student by the computer system, a class schedule in accordance with the preferences and the scheduling information.

14-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising importing, by the computer system, existing credits of the student into the dependency graph prior to populating the dependency graph.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is the Internet.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the computer network is a virtual network of logical elements stored on a mass storage device.

20. (currently amended) A method for creating and managing, by a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

selecting, by a student, graduation criteria established by a first course catalog corresponding to a first educational institution;

organizing the graduation criteria into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements to satisfy the graduation criteria;

coding first catalog information in a the first course catalog, and second catalog information in a second course catalog, corresponding to a second educational institution, with XML tags to create XML pages;

providing the XML pages on a network;

mining, over the network, the first catalog information and the second catalog information;

selecting course information from the first catalog information and the second catalog information to populate the dependency graph with courses satisfying the graduation criteria in accordance with the first course catalog;

offering, by a first educational institution, a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the degree;

identifying a second educational institution offering a second plurality of courses and lacking a direct and express agreement obligating the first educational institution to recognize credit for the second plurality of courses;

coding first catalog information corresponding to the first plurality of courses and second catalog information corresponding to the second plurality of courses with XML tags to create XML pages;

providing the XML pages on a computer network;

mining, by a computer system, the XML pages to create a record of courses selected from the first and second plurality of courses;

storing in the computer system a database comprising records reflecting equivalencies between the first and second plurality of courses;

presenting, by the computer system over the computer network, the plurality of degrees to a student;

selecting, by the student over the computer network, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

populating, by the computer system, the dependency graph with selected courses from the record of courses, the selected courses collectively satisfying the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network, the dependency graph to the student.

21. (currently amended) A method for creating and managing, by a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

selecting, by a student, graduation criteria established by a first course catalog corresponding to a first educational institution;

organizing the graduation criteria into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements to satisfy the graduation criteria;

mining, over a network, first catalog information contained in the first course catalog;

selecting course information from the first catalog information to populate the dependency graph with courses satisfying the graduation criteria in accordance with the first course catalog;

selecting, by the student, preferences with respect to courses used to populate the dependency graph; and

creating, for the student, a class schedule in accordance with the preferences.

offering, by a first educational institution, a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the degree;

identifying a second educational institution offering a second plurality of courses and lacking a direct and express agreement obligating the first educational institution to recognize credit for the second plurality of courses;

storing in a computer system a database comprising records reflecting equivalencies between the first and second plurality of courses;

presenting, by the computer system over a computer network, the plurality of degrees to a student;

selecting, by the student over the computer network, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

inputting, by the student, into the computer system, scheduling criteria defining preferences of the student;

selecting candidate courses by filtering, by the computer system the first and second pluralities of courses in accordance with the scheduling criteria;

organizing, by the computer system, the first degree into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements corresponding to the first degree;

populating, by the computer system, the dependency graph with the selected courses selected from the candidate courses, the selected courses collectively satisfying the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network, a schedule of the selected courses.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein preferences are selected from the group consisting of preferred times, preferred days, cost, credit hour load, desired time to graduate, and preferred location to take courses.